

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: December 2008

**MEPAG Meeting #20:** March 3-4, 2009 in Arlington, VA..

## *Mars Science News*

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### **MEPAG #20 is March 3-4 in Arlington, Virginia.**

We have a block of 65 sleeping rooms reserved for arrival on March 2 and departing as late as March 4 at the government rate of \$209.00 plus 10.25% tax. The Block code is "MEP." If you have any problems, mention the MEPAG meeting. The cutoff date for the room block is February 3.

These rooms are reserved on a first come first served basis.

Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark, 1900 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA 22209.

Phone: (703) 807-2000

### **MSL launch moved to 2011**

NASA has officially announced the slip of the MSL mission to a 2011 launch, due to technical difficulties. While the delay is a disappointment, the success of the mission comes first. We want to express our thanks to the MSL team for all the hard work they have done and will continue to do to make this project a scientific success.

### **Decadal Survey**

The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences is gearing up for the next Planetary Decadal Survey. This is an important activity for Mars and the entire planetary science community. The MEPAG Executive Committee has already provided some inputs to the NRC and additional support for this activity will be a key goal for MEPAG over the coming months. This will also be a major topic at the next MEPAG meeting.

### **ExoMars**

The Ministers in charge of space activities in the European Space Agency's 18 Member States and Canada have endorsed the next phase of ExoMars, albeit at a lower level than requested.

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2008</i>		
	December 15–19, 2008 San Francisco, CA	<b>Fall meeting, AGU</b> Note special sessions on MRO, Phoenix. <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">www.agu.org/meetings</a>
	December 24, 2008	<b>End of Mars solar conjunction</b>
	December 26, 2008	<b>Mars equinox (beginning of northern fall)</b>
<i>First Quarter, 2009</i>		
	January 12-13, 2009 Adelphi, Maryland	<b>Small Bodies Assessment Group</b> The Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) will hold its delayed inaugural meeting on January 12 - 13, 2009, at the Marriott Inn and Conference Center at University of Maryland, 3501 University Blvd East. Adelphi, Maryland. Participants will receive information on the general status of small bodies programs conducted through NASA Headquarters, and individual presentations on proposed robotic small bodies missions. Detailed information will be available on the SBAG web site: <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/</a>
	January 14-16, 2009	<b>Mars Express Science Team Meeting (SWT)</b> In conjunction with Venus Express SWT (12-13 January 2009), ESTEC, Noordwijk Netherlands, contact Agustin Chicarro or (Agustin.Chicarro@esa.int) or Olivier Witasse (owitasse@rssd.esa.int)
	<b>DATE CHANGE</b> February 26-27, 2009. Houston, Texas	<b>Venus Geochemistry: Progress, Prospects, and New Missions</b> Gilruth Center, JSC <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/venus2009/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/venus2009/</a>
	February 25, 2009 Houston, Texas	<b>VEXAG (Venus Exploration Analysis Group) Meeting #5</b> In conjunction with Workshop on Venus Geochemistry: Progress, Prospects, and New Missions, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas, contact Ellen Stofan (ellen@proxemy.com)
	March 3-4, 2009 Arlington, VA	<b>MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #20</b>
	March 7-14, 2009 Big Sky, Montana	<b>2009 IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> <a href="http://www.aeroconf.org/">http://www.aeroconf.org/</a>
 	22 March 2009 The Woodlands, Texas	<b>MRO/CRISM Data Users' Workshop:</b> The day before the 40 <sup>th</sup> LPSC, will be held at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, The Woodlands, Texas. High-resolution hyperspectral images from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's CRISM Imaging spectrometer have been released to the PDS with a variety of ancillary data that support map projection, correction of surface measurements for photometric and atmospheric effects, and basic processing of the data. In addition, global mapping data at a reduced spatial resolution have been released in map-projected form as nearly 2000 tiles each covering about 0.05% of Mars' surface. In addition the CRISM team has developed and tested a number of specialized tools that plug in to ITT Visual Information Systems' ENVI software package. These will be publicly available in early 2009. At this workshop CRISM team members will review basic CRISM data products and their uses, acquaint data users with online tools to search the data set, and provide a tutorial of how to use custom software available under ENVI.

	23-27 March 2009 The Woodlands, Texas	<b>40th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC 2009)</b> Abstract deadline January 8, 2009. Note new location; The Woodlands, TX <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2009/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2009/</a>
<i>Second Quarter, 2009</i>		
	April 2-4, 2009 Mainz, Germany	<b>Conference on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy and Luminescence Studies in the Earth and Planetary Sciences</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/spectroscopy2009/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/spectroscopy2009/</a>
	<b>POSTPONED</b> April 2009	<b>Fourth MSL Landing Site workshop</b>
	May 11-15, 2009 Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS	<b>International Conference on Comparative Planetology: Venus-Earth-Mars at ESTEC</b> Contact: Augustin Chicarro, <a href="mailto:Augustin.Chicarro@esa.int">Augustin.Chicarro@esa.int</a> or Hakan Svedhem, <a href="mailto:Hakan.Svedhem@esa.int">mailto:Hakan.Svedhem@esa.int</a> <a href="http://www.rssd.esa.int/eslab-2009/">http://www.rssd.esa.int/eslab-2009/</a>
	June 13-14, 2009 Barcelona, Spain	<b>Planetary Protection Short Course</b> <a href="http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/">http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/</a>
	June 15-19, 2009 Barcelona, Spain	<b>7<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Probe Workshop</b> Abstract deadline March 1, 2009 <a href="http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/">http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/</a>
	June 21-26, 2009 Davos, Switzerland	<b>Goldschmidt™ 2009 - "Challenges to Our Volatile Planet"</b> Note key theme areas of Mars interest: Theme 1: Nebular Processes, Planet Formation and Comparative Planetology Theme 2: Earth, The Early Years: Building a Habitable Planet Theme 16: Life at the Edge: Extreme Environments <a href="http://www.goldschmidt2009.org">http://www.goldschmidt2009.org</a>
<i>Third Quarter, 2009</i>		
	July 6-11, 2009 Melbourne, Australia	<b>7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geomorphology Ancient Landscapes – Modern Perspectives</b> Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre There will be dedicated sessions on Planetary Geomorphology and a field trip to examine analog landscapes in South Australia. <a href="http://www.geomorphology2009.com/">http://www.geomorphology2009.com/</a> (Submitted by Mary Bourke, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, Arizona)
	July 13–18, 2009 Nancy, FRANCE	<b>72nd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Marc Chaussidon, Guy Libourel or Bernard Marty <a href="http://www.metsoc2009.org/">http://www.metsoc2009.org/</a>
	September 20-23, 2009 Alghero, Sardinia, Italy	<b>International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) Meeting</b> Session T7: Sedimentology and Stratigraphy in the inner and Outer Solar System Fieldtrip FT5: Tunisian desert: a perfect place to simulate landing on Mars <a href="http://www.ias2009.com/">http://www.ias2009.com/</a>
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2009</i>		
	October 4–9, 2009 San Juan, Puerto Rico	<b>41st Annual Meeting DPS</b> <a href="http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html">http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html</a>

	October 18–21, 2009 Portland, Oregon	<b>Geological Society of America National Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/</a>
	December 14–18, 2009 San Francisco, California	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<i>2010</i>		
	March 2010 Houston, Texas	<b>Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
	June 8-12, 2010 Oslo, Norway	<b>International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference</b> <a href="http://www.ipy-osc.no/">http://www.ipy-osc.no/</a>
	July 18–25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	<b>38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly</b> Abstract Deadline: Mid-February 2010 Topics: - SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System - SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres - SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres - Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP) Contact: <a href="mailto:cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr">cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr</a> <a href="http://www.cospar2010.org/">http://www.cospar2010.org/</a> or <a href="http://www.cospar-assembly.org">http://www.cospar-assembly.org</a>
	July 25 or August 1, 2010 Toronto, Ontario CANADA	<b>73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Dr. G. Srinivasan <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
	October 18-22, 2010 Madison, WI	<b>42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS</b> <a href="http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html">http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html</a>
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado	<b>Geological Society of America National Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/</a>
	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<i>2011</i>		
	July 2011 Pasadena, California	<b>8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mars</b> California Institute of Technology
	August 2011 Greenwich ENGLAND, UK	<b>74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Gretchen Benedix <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	<b>43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS</b> <a href="http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html">http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html</a>
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota	<b>Geological Society of America National Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/</a>
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, CA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<i>2012</i>		

August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	<b>75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Trevor Ireland <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	<b>The 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress</b> <a href="http://www.33igc.org/">http://www.33igc.org/</a>

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Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/ meetings:

Rosh Hashanah	9/30/2008	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012
Yom Kippur	10/9/2008	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Good Friday		4/10/2009	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/2008	11/26/2009	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/2008	10/12/2009	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, [Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov), 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.